

# Legislative News



## State Budget Director Gives Testimony in House Budget Committee

January 15, 2010

### Upcoming Events

- [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) Overview of FY 11 governor recommendations, FY 10 supplemental recommendations, and FY 11 statewide issues. Monday, January 25 at noon. SCR 2.
- [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) Initial review of higher education budget. Tentatively set for February 2 and 3 at 8 am.

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The [House Budget Committee](#) held its first hearing of the 2010 session on Tuesday. The main purpose of the meeting was to hear testimony from State Budget Director Linda Luebbering regarding the state's revenue situation.

Ms. Luebbering told the committee that the revised revenue estimate for FY 2010 is for a 6.4% decline from FY 2009 and that in order to balance the budget the Governor will have to impose a new expenditure restriction of approximately \$170 million. For FY 2011, state revenue is expected to grow by 3.6%. Even with that growth, however, total collections will be \$225 million below FY 2009 and more than \$750 million below FY 2008. Ms. Luebbering reiterated that the Governor is committed to not raising taxes and as such will propose



The Missouri State Capitol Building.

that budget shortfalls be addressed through spending cuts. Details regarding the Governor's plans for additional FY 2010 expenditure restrictions and on-going cuts for FY 2011 will be released in conjunction with his State of the State address, which is scheduled for 7 pm on January 20.

## The Bonding Bill is Back

[Rep. Chris Kelly](#) (R-Columbia) filed a resolution this week that would fund higher education capital projects. The resolution, [HJR 77](#), proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the General Assembly to issue \$800 million in bonds to fund

higher education improvements, construction, landscaping, and land purchases. Fifty representatives are co-sponsoring the resolution, including 20 Republicans. A [similar resolution](#) made significant progress during the 2009 legislative session. It was

passed by the House, but died in the Senate at the end of the session.

If passed by the legislature, the proposal would have to be approved by a popular vote – most likely on next November's general election ballot.

## Senate Seminar Educates on P-20 Initiatives



Commissioner Stein speaks to attendees at Thursday's senate seminar.

On Thursday this week, several senators attended a seminar on the state's P-20 efforts. The Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Robert Stein, led the seminar, along with representatives of the University of Missouri. Stein explained the development of the

P-20 concept and the state's efforts to "fix leaks" in the educational pipeline. Senators' questions focused on the relationship between teacher training and retention and students' educational outcomes. University of Missouri staff explained research the university

has done to help gain an understanding of why those "leaks" in the educational pipeline exist, and what can be done to facilitate students' movement through the educational system.

## Governor Announces *Training for Tomorrow* Program

During visits to Crowder College and Three Rivers Community College Monday, Governor Nixon announced the new *Training for Tomorrow* program – a \$12 million initiative to help Missouri community colleges create or expand training programs in order to educate Missourians in high-tech fields and get them working in growing industries.

Nixon said, "Especially in growing industries like health care, technical training beyond high school is absolutely vital, but many of our community colleges simply don't have the equipment, instructors or resources to meet the needs of Missouri's workers." The Governor noted several occupations specifically targeted by these funds, including veterinary and

pharmacy technicians, nursing aides, and skilled craftsmen.

The *Training for Tomorrow* program allows member institutions of the Missouri Community College Association to partner with the government of the county in which they are located to apply for grant dollars to develop or expand programs. Community colleges applying for competitive grants under the *Training for Tomorrow* program will be required to provide a detailed description of the programs they plan to develop or expand, including:

- Outlining the specific actions they will take to expand the capacity of high-demand programs;
- Detailing market demand for the programs, both by students and

employers;

- Identifying business and industry partners who can help design the programs;
- Aligning the expansion of these programs with local economic recovery efforts;
- Showing that the expansion will create or add pathways to specific high-demand careers in the local market; and
- Drafting an implementation plan for the programs.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development will administer the *Training for Tomorrow* program. For more information, visit the governor's website: [www.governor.mo.gov](http://www.governor.mo.gov).

*"...many of our community colleges simply don't have the equipment, instructors or resources to meet the needs of Missouri's workers."*

- Governor Nixon

## Stein Receives Martin Luther King Distinguished Educator Award

Commissioner of Higher Education Robert B. Stein received the 2010 Distinguished Leader in Higher Education Award by the Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration Commission on January 9. Stein, who is retiring this year after a 40-year career in higher education, was lauded for his commitment to bringing diverse interests together to propel improvements in higher education.

"Dr. Stein has always been a great supporter over the years of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration Kick-off Program,"

said Dr. Henry Givens Jr., president of Harris-Stowe State University and chairman of the Dr. MLK Commission. "In the realm of higher education, he is a true champion. He is most deserving of such recognition and the entire commission agreed that he was worthy of being honored with the Distinguished Higher Educator Award this year."

The Martin Luther King Distinguished Leader in Higher Education Award, said Stein, "reinforces the idea that only by working together for the good of the whole can we surmount the chal-

lenges that face higher education today. We must follow the example of Dr. King by speaking out against injustice. As we 'race to the top,' we must ensure opportunities for all, not just the few. The Distinguished Leader in Higher Education Award is a great honor and deeply appreciated."



The Missouri state flag flies outside the Capitol Building.

## Report From Senate 2020 Committees

Last session, Senate Pro Tem Charlie Shields created three special committees charged with developing strategic plans for job creation, improved health status, and educating Missouri's citizenry. On Wednesday this week, the chairs of the [Educated Citizenry 2020](#)

[Committee](#), the [Healthy Missourians 2020 Committee](#), and the [Job Creation 2020 Committee](#) gave the Senate a progress report based on public testimony received and research completed in the summer and fall of 2009. The progress reports were not conclusive;

each committee will continue its work and make a final report by the end of December 2010.



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